Topps COMICS
BRIAN STELFREEZE TRADING CARD
OF DEZIRA INSIDE! (PLUS A WOLFF AND BYRD CARD TOO!)
3
OF 4
$2.95 US
$3.75 CANADA
SATAN'S SIX
QUASIMODO-- DEZIRA'S OLD BOYFRIEND'S BACK--
INFOTAINMENT 2-NITE
--AND BRIAN BLUEDRAGON DOESN'T SEEM THRILLED!
BAD BOY
TONY ISABELLA
EDDIE FITZGERSOLL
JOHN CLEARY
ARMANDO GIL
CLEARY
GIL

TONY ISABELLA
&
BOB INGERSOLL
WRITER

JOHN CLEARY
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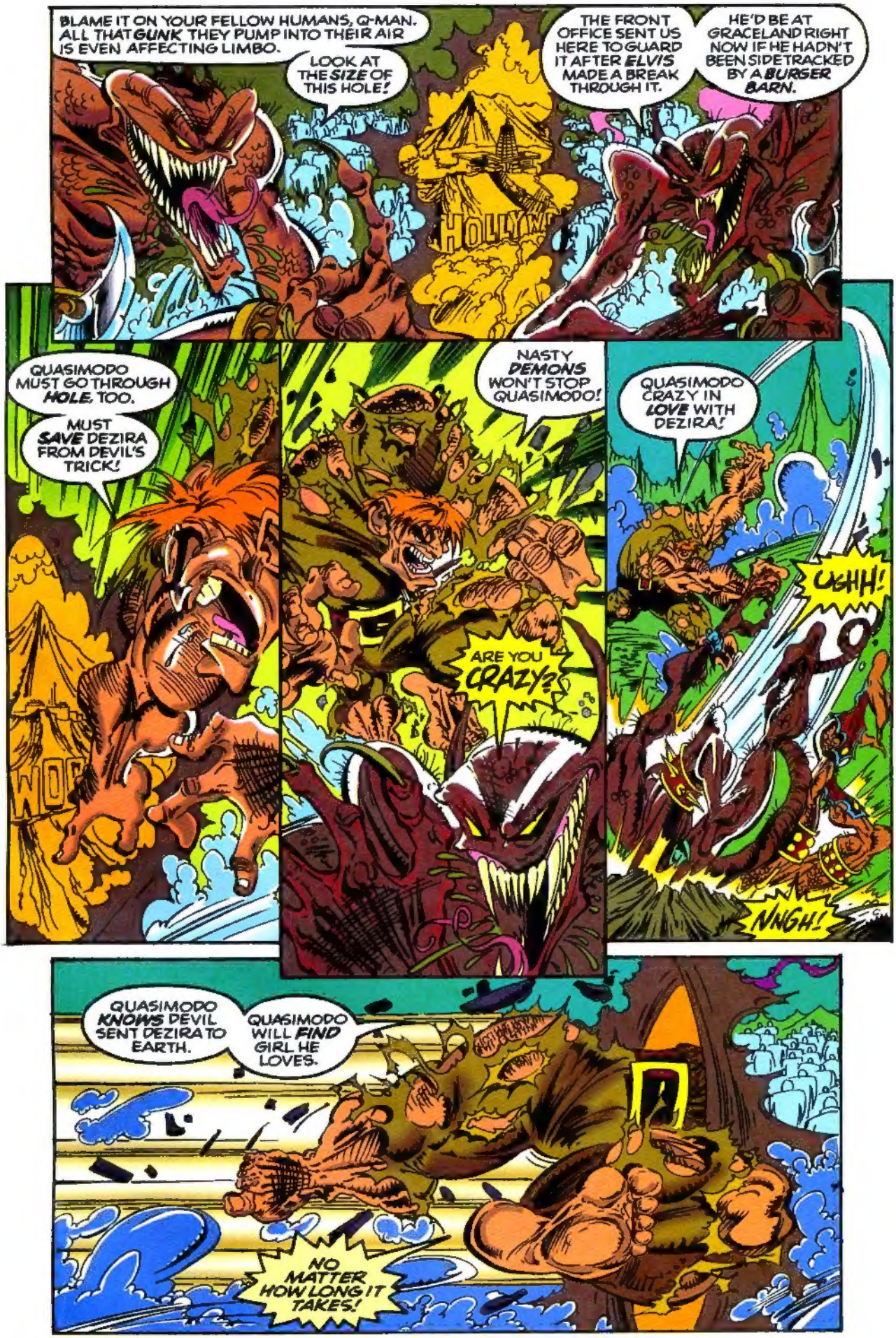
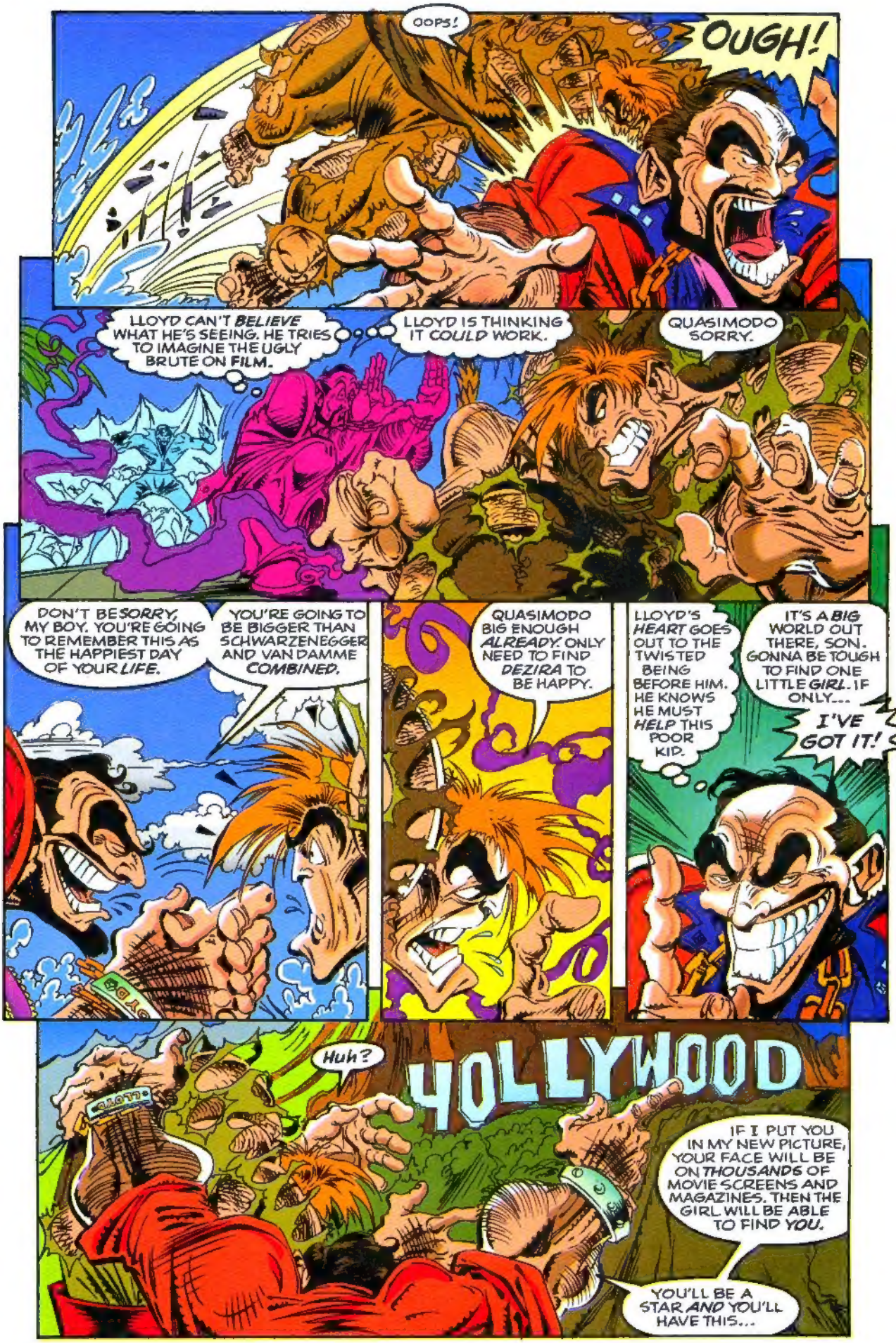
SCENE OPENS ON A DESPONDENT LLOYD KAUFMAN WALKING DOWN HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD.
LLOYD, A HANDSOME MAN IN HIS MID-FORTIES AND THE PRESIDENT OF TROMA, INC., PRODUCERS OF "EXCELLENCE ON CELLULOID," HAS HAD A FEW SETBACKS OF LATE.
HE HAD HIGH HOPES FOR HIS NEXT MOVIE-- THE UGLY ANNIHILATOR STARRING SAMSON LODESTONE.
UNTIL SAMSON-- SAMANTHA--ANNOUNCED HE WAS QUITTING THE FILM TO BECOME A VEGAS SHOWGIRL.
CLOSE-UP OF THE PAIN IN LLOYD'S EYES.
HOLLYWOOD
LLOYD
Kreep's of Hollywood
AND SO, ONE SHORT DAY BEFORE SHOOTING WAS SUPPOSED TO START, LLOYD WANDERS THE STREETS OF HIS BELOVED LA-LA LAND PONDERING THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE.
WHAT HAS HE DONE TO DESERVE THIS?
WHY CAN'T HE STOP THINKING ABOUT SAMSON IN THAT DRESS?
WHERE CAN HE FIND SOMEONE TO STAR IN THIS STUPID MOVIE BY MORNING?
JACK KIRBY

LIMBO.
DEZIRA!
DEZIRA!
DEZIRA!
WELL, WELL. IF IT ISN'T QUASIMODO. I HAD ME A HUNCH IT WAS YOU MAKIN' ALL THE RACKET!
I SEE YOU'RE STILL CARRYIN' A TORCH FOR THAT BABYLONIAN BIMBO. HOW ROMANTIC!
IT PRACTICALLY BREAKS ME HEART THAT WE CAN'T LET YOU GO NO FARTHER, BUT RULES IS RULES.
THIS SECTION OF LIMBO IS OFF-LIMITS!
DEZIRA.


BLAME IT ON YOUR FELLOW HUMANS, Q-MAN. ALL THAT GUNK THEY PUMP INTO THEIR AIR IS EVEN AFFECTING LIMBO.
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS HOLE!
THE FRONT OFFICE SENT US HERE TO GUARD IT AFTER ELVIS MADE A BREAK THROUGH IT.
HE'D BE AT GRACELAND RIGHT NOW IF HE HADN'T BEEN SIDETRACKED BY A BURGER BARN.
HOLLYW
QUASIMODO MUST GO THROUGH HOLE, TOO.
MUST SAVE DEZIRA FROM DEVIL'S TRICK!
NASTY DEMONS WON'T STOP QUASIMODO!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
QUASIMODO CRAZY IN LOVE WITH DEZIRA!
UGHH!
NNGH!
QUASIMODO KNOWS DEVIL SENT DEZIRA TO EARTH.
QUASIMODO WILL FIND GIRL HE LOVES.
NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!

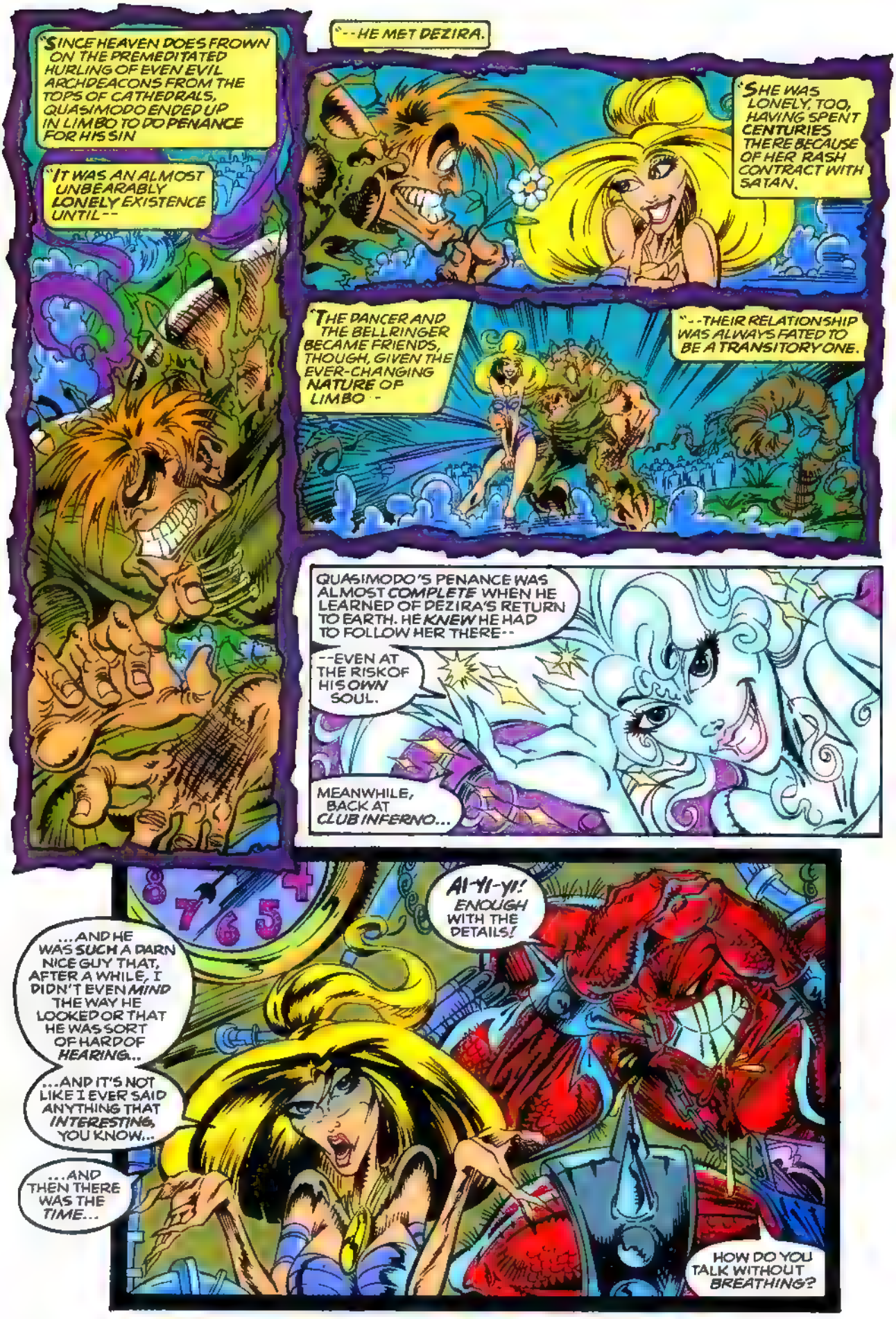

OOPS!
OUGH!
LLOYD CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE'S SEEING. HE TRIES TO IMAGINE THE UGLY BRUTE ON FILM.
LLOYD IS THINKING IT COULD WORK.
QUASIMODO SORRY.
DON'T BE SORRY, MY BOY. YOU'RE GOING TO REMEMBER THIS AS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE BIGGER THAN SCHWARZENEGGER AND VAN DAMME COMBINED.
QUASIMODO BIG ENOUGH ALREADY. ONLY NEED TO FIND DEZIRA TO BE HAPPY.
LLOYD'S HEART GOES OUT TO THE TWISTED BEING BEFORE HIM. HE KNOWS HE MUST HELP THIS POOR KID.
IT'S A BIG WORLD OUT THERE, SON. GONNA BE TOUGH TO FIND ONE LITTLE GIRL. IF ONLY...
I'VE GOT IT!
HOLLYWOOD
Huh?
IF I PUT YOU IN MY NEW PICTURE, YOUR FACE WILL BE ON THOUSANDS OF MOVIE SCREENS AND MAGAZINES. THEN THE GIRL WILL BE ABLE TO FIND YOU.
YOU'LL BE A STAR AND YOU'LL HAVE THIS...

SATAN'S SIX
CREATED BY JACK KIRBY
HER Boyfriend's BACK!
DEZIRA!
CLUB INFERNO, JUST AROUND THE CORNER FROM YOUR HOUSE...
A SENSITIVE LOOK AT YOUNG ROMANCE, PRESENTED FOR YOUR EDIFICATION BY
TONY ISABELLA, WRITER
BOB INGERSOLL, CO-PLOTTER
JOHN CLEARY, PENCILLER
ARMANDO GIL, INKER
LOIS BUHALIS, LETTERER
PHIL ZIMELMAN, COLORIST
DWIGHT ZIMMERMAN, BEST BOY
JIM SALICRUP, EDITOR

AAAOOOOO
WHUF
BE STILL, FURY. THAT WAS NOT ONE OF YOUR FELLOW HELLHOUNDS. IT WAS ONLY FRIGHTFUL.
SIR BRIAN, PERHAPS WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE.
BAH! IF IT'S NOT KUGA'S MISERABLE MUTT HOWLING AT WHATEVER, IT'S OUR RESIDENT DEMON THROWING A TEMPER TANTRUM. HOW DO THEY EXPECT ME TO CONCENTRATE ON MY WORK?
THESE EXPEREMENTS ARE EXTREMELY...
FOOM
...DELICATE.
ANOTHER TYPICAL DAY AT THE CLUB. FRIGHTFUL'S PISSED OFF ABOUT SOMETHING, THE DOG'S IN HEAT, AND DOC MORDIUS IS BLOWING UP HIS LAB AGAIN.
Oh, WELL, ODDS ARE GILLIGAN WASN'T GONNA GET OFF THE ISLAND TODAY, EITHER.
DEZIRA!
Uh-oh, SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S IN TROUBLE--AND THEY'VE GOT THE SAME NAME AS ME!
GEE, THAT COULD GET CONFUSING!

LION'S BLOOD, FRIGHTFUL! YOU ROAR LIKE A MOTHER WHO HAS LOST HER CUBS!
KNOW THIS, HELLSPAWN, NO MATTER WHAT FAIR DEZIRA HAS DONE TO INCUR YOUR WRATH--
--THE SCION OF BLUEDRAGON STANDS WITH HER!
HOW DEPRESSINGLY ROMANTIC!
YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD, BOSS. MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A BICARB OR SOMETHING.
ZIP IT, HARRIGAN.
SEE THIS? IT'S MARCHING ORDERS FROM HELL CENTRAL. THERE'S BEEN AN ESCAPE FROM LIMBO.
WE'VE GOT TO TRACK DOWN AND RETURN THE LOST SOUL BEFORE HE BLOWS OUR COVER.
IT SEEMS THE HAPPY TRAVELER-- A FRENCHMAN, NO LESS-- WAS VERY CLOSE TO OUR OWN LITTLE DEZIRA.
TELL ME, SWEETBUNS, HOW COME YOU NEVER TOLD BLUEDRAG HERE ABOUT YOUR OLD BOYFRIEND?
Uh, WELL, THERE'S REALLY NOT MUCH TO TELL.
DETAILS, BABE. WE WANT DETAILS.

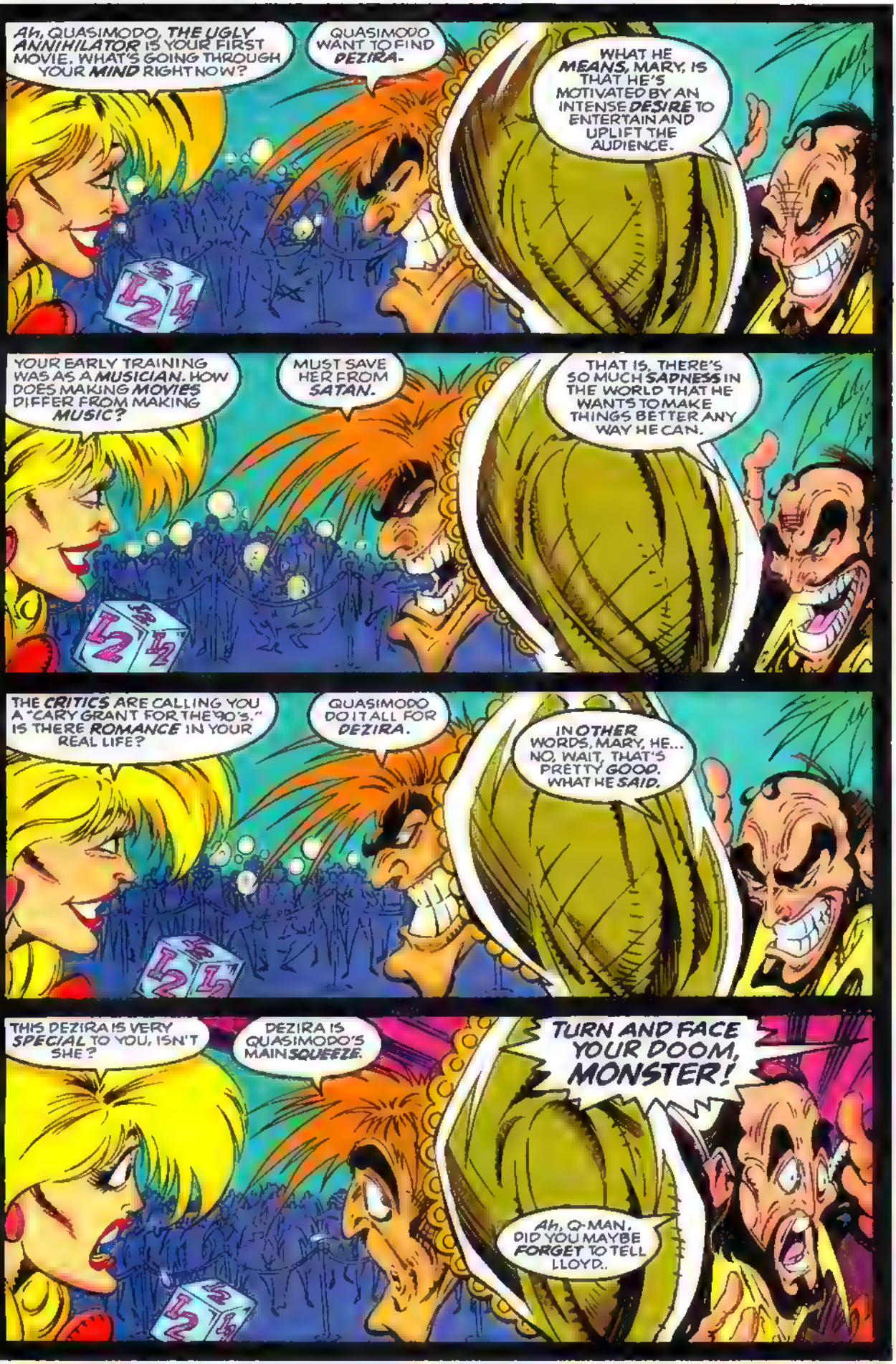
HI, I'M PRISTINE, THE GUARDIAN ANGEL ASSIGNED TO THIS BUNCH. YOU SEE, SATAN WANTS TO TRICK THEM INTO "EARNING" A PLACE IN HIS DARK REALM BY BRINGING HIM OTHER SOULS. MY JOB IS TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T SUCCEED.
OF COURSE, CONSIDERING HOW GOOD BRIAN AND THE OTHERS ARE AT MESSING UP FRIGHTFUL'S SCHEMES ALL BY THEMSELVES, I HAVE A LOT OF TIME ON MY HANDS.
SO WHY DON'T I GIVE YOU THE SHORT VERSION OF POOR DEZIRA'S TALE? NO NEED FOR YOU TO SUFFER.
"QUASIMODO WAS THE BELLRINGER OF NOTRE DAME IN THE LATE 1400's. HE WASN'T THE MOST HANDSOME GUY IN PARIS, BUT HE HAD A GOOD AND LOYAL HEART.
"AFTER A RUN-IN WITH THE COURTS, QUASIMODO WAS FLOGGED AND PILLORIED. ONLY THE GYPSY ESMERELDA CAME FORWARD TO COMFORT HIM.
"QUASIMODO FELL FOR HER ON THE SPOT.
"IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. ESMERELDA WAS FRAMED FOR MURDER BY A LECHEROUS ARCHDEACON. QUASIMODO JOINED HER IN DEATH, WASTING AWAY IN HER BURIAL VAULT.
"THE MOVIE HAS A HAPPIER ENDING.
"IN BOTH VERSIONS, QUASIMODO SETTLED THE SCORE WITH THE ARCHDEACON BY GIVING HIM FLYING LESSONS.


"SINCE HEAVEN DOES FROWN ON THE PREMEDITATED HURLING OF EVEN EVIL ARCHDEACONS FROM THE TOPS OF CATHEDRALS, QUASIMODO ENDED UP IN LIMBO TO DO PENANCE FOR HIS SIN
"IT WAS AN ALMOST UNBEARABLY LONELY EXISTENCE UNTIL--
"--HE MET DEZIRA.
"SHE WAS LONELY, TOO, HAVING SPENT CENTURIES THERE BECAUSE OF HER RASH CONTRACT WITH SATAN.
"THE DANCER AND THE BELLRINGER BECAME FRIENDS, THOUGH, GIVEN THE EVER-CHANGING NATURE OF LIMBO--
"--THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS ALWAYS FATED TO BE A TRANSITORY ONE.
QUASIMODO'S PENANCE WAS ALMOST COMPLETE WHEN HE LEARNED OF DEZIRA'S RETURN TO EARTH. HE KNEW HE HAD TO FOLLOW HER THERE--
--EVEN AT THE RISK OF HIS OWN SOUL.
MEANWHILE, BACK AT CLUB INFERNO...
...AND HE WAS SUCH A DARN NICE GUY THAT, AFTER A WHILE, I DIDN'T EVEN MIND THE WAY HE LOOKED OR THAT HE WAS SORT OF HARD OF HEARING...
...AND IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER SAID ANYTHING THAT INTERESTING, YOU KNOW...
...AND THEN THERE WAS THE TIME...
AI-YI-YI! ENOUGH WITH THE DETAILS!
HOW DO YOU TALK WITHOUT BREATHING?

ODD'S BONES, DEZIRA! HOW COULD YOU HAVE TRIFLED WITH SUCH A HIDEOUS CREATURE?
I WILL SEND HIM SCREAMING TO HELL WITH MY SWORD BURIED IN HIS BLACK HEART!
GEE, HONEY, IT WAS AN AWFUL LONG TIME AGO.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU BACK THEN.
AND BESIDES, WHERE DO YOU GET OFF CALLING ONE OF MY FRIENDS A HIDEOUS CREATURE?
AT LEAST HE NEVER ACCIDENTALLY POKED ME WITH A SWORD LIKE SOMEONE I COULD NAME.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
TWO AGENTS OF DARKNESS HAVING A LOVERS' SPAT WHEN THERE'S THE DEVIL'S WORK TO BE DONE?
THIS QUASIMODO ESCAPED FROM LIMBO OVER THREE MONTHS AGO. HE COULD BE ANYWHERE BY NOW!
HOW THE HEAVEN ARE WE GONNA FIND HIM?
WELL, THERE'S PROBABLY A BETTER THAN 50-50 CHANCE THE GUY WILL BE AT SOMEPLACE CALLED MANN'S CHINESE THEATER LATER TONIGHT.
Ah, IS SOMETHING WRONG, BOSS?
HOW
DO
YOU
KNOW
THAT?
YOU'RE SORE ABOUT THAT BICARB CRACK, AIN'T--
HARRIGAN!
I SAW IT ON THE TELEVISION?

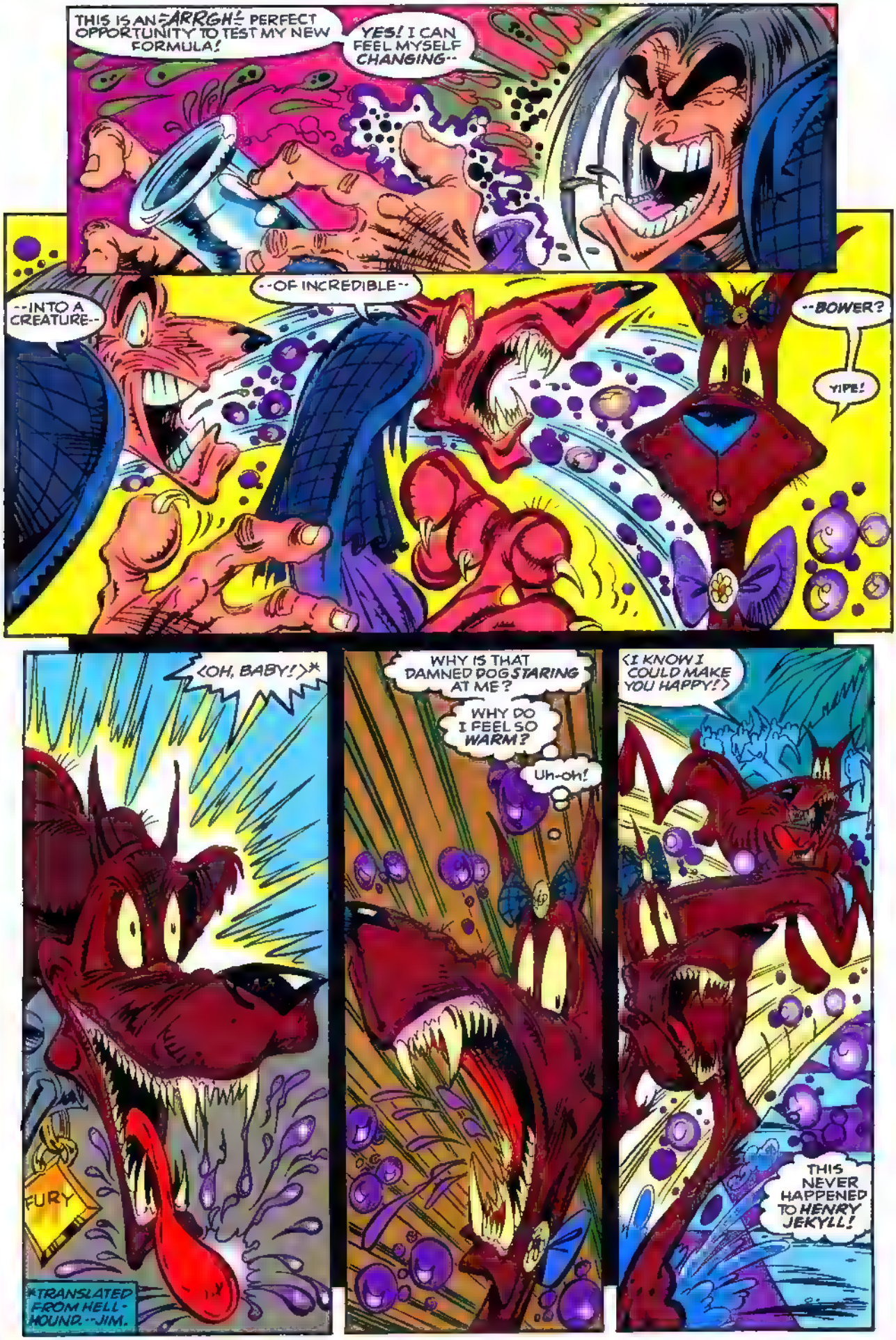
HOLLYWOOD INSIDERS AND PREVIEW AUDIENCES ARE CALLING IT "THE SURPRIZE HIT OF THE SUMMER." MARY HEARTBURN AND JOHN TUSH GO TO THE PREMIERE OF THE UGLY ANNIHILATOR--
INFOTAINMENT 2-NITE
--FOR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH DIRECTOR LLOYD KAUFMAN AND STAR QUASIMODO. IT'S OUR TOP STORY ON... INFOTAINMENT 2-NITE!
IT'S ALMOST A CINEMATIC CINDERELLA EXCEPT THE HANDSOME PRINCE IS MORE LIKE AN UGLY DUCKLING.
AND PREVIEW AUDIENCES ARE PROCLAIMING THE FILM'S GROTESQUE HERO TO BE "SEXIER THAN STALLONE."
WE'LL BE TALKING TO QUASIMODO--HIS FIRST PUBLIC INTERVIEW ANYWHERE--IN JUST A LITTLE BIT.
BUT NOW LET'S HEAR WHAT HIS MENTOR--LLOYD KAUFMAN--HAS TO SAY ABOUT HIS NEW STAR--
--AND THE MOVIE THAT BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER.
MARY, WHEN I CAME UP WITH THE BASIC IDEA FOR THE UGLY ANNIHILATOR, I JUST WANTED TO MAKE AN EXCITING PICTURE LIKE THOSE I HAD ENJOYED AS A BOY.
I WAS AS SURPRISED AS ANYONE WHEN THE HERO TURNED INTO SUCH A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTER.
I SOON REALIZED NO FAMILIAR, RUN-OF-THE-MILL STAR LIKE GIBSON OR LODESTONE WOULD BE ABLE TO BRING HIM TO LIFE.
I NEEDED A FRESH NEW FACE...
"I CONSIDER MYSELF BLESSED THAT NEW FACE CAME WITH AN ACTOR AS GIFTED, AS INDUSTRIOUS, AS INSIGHTFUL AS MY GOOD FRIEND..."
GASP
GASP

"QUASIMODO!"
AWW, LLOYD, QUASIMODO ALREADY EMBARRASSED BY SO MUCH ATTENTION.
QUASIMODO JUST THIS GUY, YOU KNOW?
HE IS SO AWESOME I AM MELTING.
I WOULD KILL FOR THOSE BICEPS.
I WANT TO HAVE HIS BABIES!

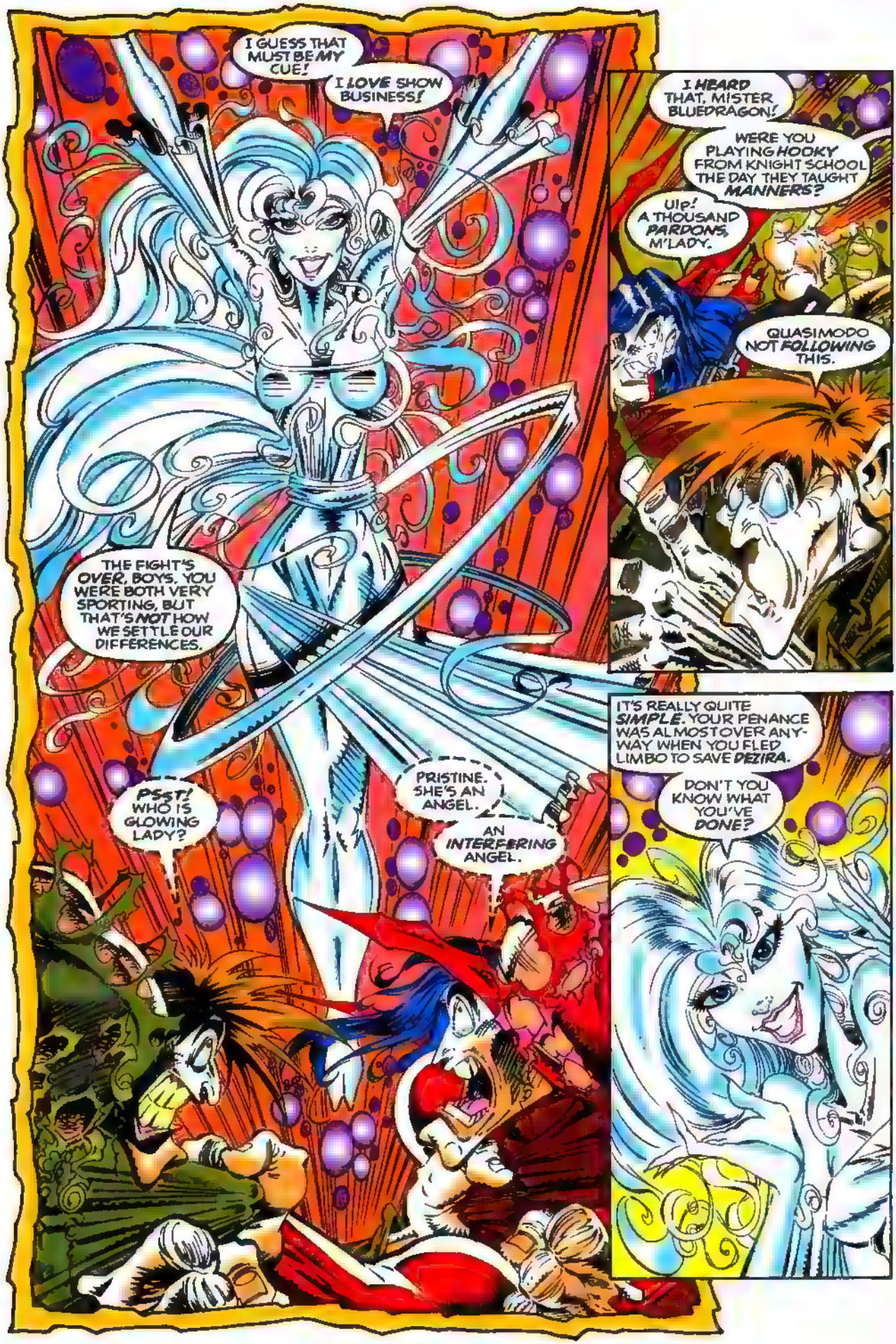

Ah, QUASIMODO, THE UGLY ANNIHILATOR IS YOUR FIRST MOVIE. WHAT'S GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW?
QUASIMODO WANT TO FIND DEZIRA-
WHAT HE MEANS, MARY, IS THAT HE'S MOTIVATED BY AN INTENSE DESIRE TO ENTERTAIN AND UPLIFT THE AUDIENCE.
YOUR EARLY TRAINING WAS AS A MUSICIAN. HOW DOES MAKING MOVIES DIFFER FROM MAKING MUSIC?
MUST SAVE HER FROM SATAN.
THAT IS, THERE'S SO MUCH SADNESS IN THE WORLD THAT HE WANTS TO MAKE THINGS BETTER ANY WAY HE CAN.
THE CRITICS ARE CALLING YOU A "CARY GRANT FOR THE 90'S." IS THERE ROMANCE IN YOUR REAL LIFE?
QUASIMODO DO IT ALL FOR DEZIRA.
IN OTHER WORDS, MARY, HE... NO, WAIT, THAT'S PRETTY GOOD. WHAT HE SAID.
THIS DEZIRA IS VERY SPECIAL TO YOU, ISN'T SHE?
DEZIRA IS QUASIMODO'S MAIN SQUEEZE.
TURN AND FACE YOUR DOOM, MONSTER!
Ah, Q-MAN, DID YOU MAYBE FORGET TO TELL LLOYD.

"THAT YOU INVITED SOME FRIENDS?"
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK OF DEZIRA THUS? BY JESU, YOU'LL PAY FOR SUCH EFFRONTERY!
Oh, DO GET ON WITH IT, MAN!
AYE, GOOD MORDIUS, I'LL DRAG THIS GROTESQUERIE BACK TO THE NETHERWORLD--
--WITH MY HANDS LOCKED AROUND HIS BLACK HEART!
QUASIMODO IS NOT GOING TO BE LIKING THIS.
WHY DO GUYS DO THIS STUFF?
PLEASE DON'T HURT HIM!
HE CAN'T HELP BEING THAT WAY!
YOUR COMPASSION DOES YOU HONOR, FAIR ONE!
I WILL LEAVE HIS MAJOR ORGANS UNSCATHED!
WHUGG!
"BRIAN, I WAS TALKING TO QUASIMODO!"

WHAT? YOU'VE BEWITCHED HER, YOU ANIMAL!
RELEASE HER OR... AH... DIE AGAIN!
WHUF
GAAHH!
QUASIMODO IS NOT AN ANIMAL--
--BUT HE SURE GONNA RING YOUR BELLS REAL GOOD!
JOHN! MARY! THIS IS TERRIBLE, ISN'T IT?
PLEASE TELL ME YOUR CAMERAS ARE RUNNING!
NEXT TIME, WE SEND LEEZA!
IT SEEMS OUR BENIGHTED KNIGHT IS GETTING THE WORST OF HIS BATTLE WITH DEZIRA'S FORMER BEAU.
DOUBTLESS HIS OVERBLOWN PRIDE WOULD BE STUNG WERE ANY OF US TO JOIN THIS FRAY.
BUT WHAT MEANS THAT TO A MAN OF SCIENCE?
Glugg Glugg Glugg


THIS IS AN =ARRGH!= PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO TEST MY NEW FORMULA!
YES! I CAN FEEL MYSELF CHANGING--
--INTO A CREATURE--
--OF INCREDIBLE--
--BOWER?
YIPE!
<OH, BABY!>*
FURY
*TRANSLATED FROM HELL-HOUND--JIM.
WHY IS THAT DAMNED DOG STARING AT ME?
WHY DO I FEEL SO WARM?
Uh-oh!
<I KNOW I COULD MAKE YOU HAPPY!>
THIS NEVER HAPPENED TO HENRY JEKYLL!

A TRUE WARRIOR DOES NOT ABANDON HIS FELLOWS, BUT NOW MY COMRADES FACE DUAL DANGERS.
I CAN ONLY AID ONE, BUT WHICH ONE?
IF ONLY FRIGHTFUL WERE HERE! O CRUEL FATE THAT MADE OUR MENTOR ALLERGIC TO THIS HOLLYWOOD!
FORGIVE ME, BRAVE BRIAN, BUT 'TIS MORDIUS IN THE GRAVEST PERIL THIS NIGHT!
<FURY! STOP THAT!>
HARRIGAN, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP BRIAN! QUASIMODO FORGETS HOW STRONG HE IS.
ME? DO I LOOK LIKE JACK DEMPSEY?
SORRY, DOLL. I'VE BET ON A LOT OF FIGHTS AND I GOTTA TELL YOU...
...IT'LL TAKE A MIRACLE TO SAVE OUR BOY!


I GUESS THAT MUST BE MY CUE!
I LOVE SHOW BUSINESS!
THE FIGHT'S OVER, BOYS. YOU WERE BOTH VERY SPORTING, BUT THAT'S NOT HOW WE SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES.
PSST! WHO IS GLOWING LADY?
PRISTINE. SHE'S AN ANGEL.
AN INTERFERING ANGEL.
I HEARD THAT, MISTER BLUEDRAGON!
WERE YOU PLAYING HOOKY FROM KNIGHT SCHOOL THE DAY THEY TAUGHT MANNERS?
UIP! A THOUSAND PARDONS, M'LADY.
QUASIMODO NOT FOLLOWING THIS.
IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE. YOUR PENANCE WAS ALMOST OVER ANYWAY WHEN YOU FLED LIMBO TO SAVE DEZIRA.
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

YOU WERE WILLING TO RISK EVERYTHING TO HELP ANOTHER PERSON. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH MY BOSS LOVES TO SEE THAT IN HIS CHILDREN.
YOU DID IT, QUASIMODO. YOU GET TO BYPASS LIMBO, GO DIRECTLY TO HEAVEN, AND COLLECT YOUR ETERNAL REWARD.
I THINK I'M GONNA CRY.
ANGEL-LADY? QUASIMODO HAVE TO ASK...
CAN DEZIRA COME, TOO?
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY HOW IT WORKS.
MAYBE YOU TWO SHOULD TALK.
OH, QUASI!
HARRUMPH!
I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH, QUASI. NOBODY HAS EVER TREATED ME AS NICE AS YOU DID.
I WANT TO GO WITH YOU. I REALLY DO.
QUASIMODO SENSE A "BUT" COMING HERE.

I HAVE TO STAY HERE WITH BRIAN AND THE OTHERS. YOU'VE EARNED YOUR PLACE. WE HAVEN'T.
I LOVE YOU, QUASI. YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.
QUASI LOVE YOU, TOO... FRIEND.
ANGEL, YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART HERE. THIS MOVIE IS GONNA BE A SMASH HIT AND YOU WANT TO RETIRE MY STAR!
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU?
WELL, THERE WAS THAT GRATUITOUS NUDITY IN BATTLE BABES 2001.
WE GOT MAJOR MAJOR HEAT HERE, Q-MAN! WE CAN NAME OUR OWN PRICE FOR THE SEQUEL!
C'MON, BIG GUY! WE'RE A TEAM!
QUASIMODO, WE CAN LEAVE ANY TIME YOU'RE READY.
IT'S A CORONARY! I'M DYING!
WHAT? AND GIVE UP SHOW BUSINESS?

WHY DID I LET YOU MORONS GO ALONE?
THE HUNCHBACK DOESN'T GET DRAGGED SCREAMING BACK TO LIMBO. NOOOOOO...
HE GETS A THREE PICTURE DEAL!
I TRULY REGRET MY BOORISH BEHAVIOR, FAIR DEZIRA.
BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU EVER SAW IN QUASIMODO.
THAT'S FUNNY...
HE SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU.
DOCTOR MORDIUS?
YIP YIP YIP
<HONEY, I'M HOME!>
GOSH, I WONDER WHEN THAT FORMULA WILL FINALLY WEAR OFF?
GEE, KUGA, DO YOU THINK I COULD HAVE ONE OF THE PUPPIES?
<FURY! LEAVE THE DOCTOR BE!>
ALL THIS ROMANCE AROUND HERE IS CURDLING MY STOMACH.
BUT THERE'S ONE THING I GOTTA KNOW, BLONDIE--

"WERE YOU DATING ANYBODY ELSE IN LIMBO?"
NO, I CAN'T READ THE SIGN, YOU OLD WITCH!
I'M ATTILA, KING OF THE HUNS! I USED TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO READ SIGNS FOR ME!
JUST TELL ME IF THIS IS WHERE DEZIRA DANCES AND MAYBE I WON'T EAT YOUR DOG!
CLUB INFERNO

NEXT: JASON IS GOING TO HELL, BUT HE'S MAKING A PIT STOP AT CLUB INFERNO! AND THAT'S JUST THE OUTRAGEOUS OPENING OF OUR BEST FOURTH ISSUE EVER! DON'T DARE MISS...

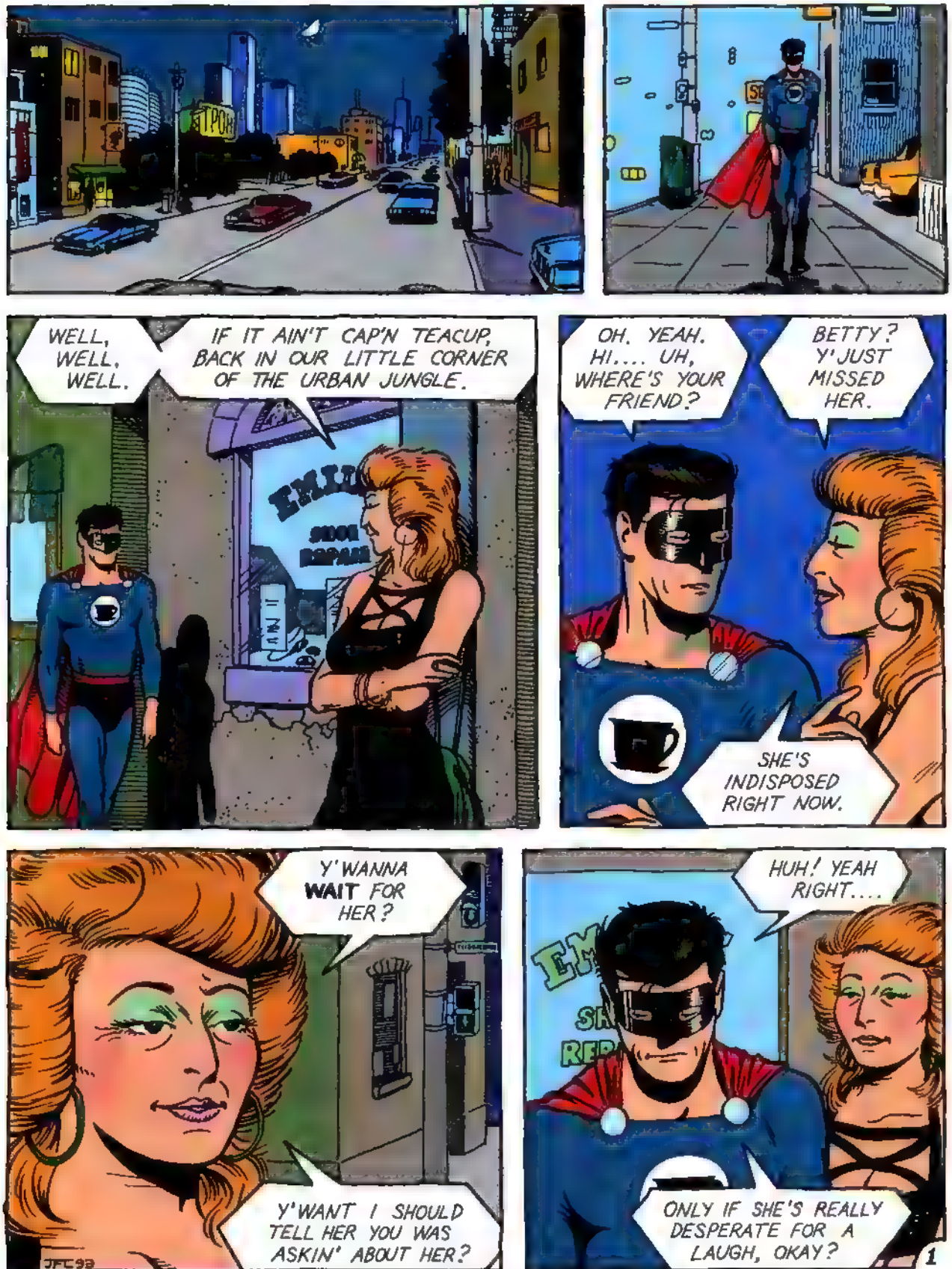
HARRIGAN'S HOMECOMING!

Coffee

A Mundane Adventure of Dishman™

by John MacLeod

(Dedicated to the creators of small press comics)


WELL, WELL, WELL.
IF IT AIN'T CAP'N TEACUP, BACK IN OUR LITTLE CORNER OF THE URBAN JUNGLE.
OH. YEAH. HI.... UH, WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND?
BETTY? Y'JUST MISSED HER.
SHE'S INDISPOSED RIGHT NOW.
Y'WANNA WAIT FOR HER?
Y'WANT I SHOULD TELL HER YOU WAS ASKIN' ABOUT HER?
HUH! YEAH RIGHT....
ONLY IF SHE'S REALLY DESPERATE FOR A LAUGH, OKAY?
JFC93

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HEY...
.... HEY, WHA'S UP?
SUMP'N EATIN' YOU, CAP'N?
C'MON, I THOUGHT YOU GUYS ALWAYS MADE WITH THE BIG SMILES LIKE TOOTHPASTE COMMERCIALS, Y'KNOW?
JUNK
HMF. ONLY IN THE OLD DAYS, MAYBE...
YO! 'S GETTIN' COLD, AIN'T NOTHIN' DOIN' OUT HERE..
LET'S GO GET A COFFEE, HUH?
UHHH, I DON'T THINK I CAN AFFORD TO "HAVE A COFFEE" WITH YOU, SORRY.
NAW, C'MON! DUTCH! A REAL COFFEE, YOU WANT IT OR NOT?
....aaah, sure....
2

BACK HERE. THE LIGHTS UP FRONT BUG ME.
SO. HOWCUM YOU AREN'T YOUR USUAL, CHIPPER, DUDLEY DO-RIGHT SELF TONIGHT, CAP'N?
WELL, UH, MISS UHH...
SHIRLEY.
SHIRLEY CAPELLANI.
OKAY: SHIRLEY.
I'M DISHMAN, BY THE WAY.
"DISHMAN"?? ....NAWww!!
NAW, LOSE THE NAME! "CAP'N TEACUP"'S WAY BETTER!
WHATEVER.
I.... I DUNNO, I JUST, UH, HAVE PROBLEMS.
WHAT IS IT, GIRL TROUBLE, MAYBE?
:sigh:
why am I telling you this?...
...WELL, YES, ACTUALLY.
3

MY, UH, MY FIANCÉE AND I, UH, SPLIT UP RECENTLY AND I, UHHH....
... HMF.
OOOoo! "FIANCÉE"! BIG-TIME STUFF, CAP'N.
I TAKE IT SHE DUMPED YOU, HUH?
MM-HMM.
BECAUSE OF THIS, BASICALLY.
WHAT, YOUR CAP'N GET-UP?
THAT, AND WHAT I DO WITH IT.
Y'KNOW, I HEARD WHAT YOU DO.
SAVED SOME STREET GUY FROM GETTIN' HIS HEAD KICKED IN.
AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE GUY.
'ZAT TRUE?
... YES, IT IS.
SO THIS HERO STUFF IS THE REAL THING.
ABSOLUTELY.

KNOW WHAT?
NEVER NOTICED THIS BEFORE....
... YOU GOT NICE EYES.
.... Sheeee...
SO Y'KNOW WHAT I SAY?
I SAY IF SHE'S GONNA DUMP A GUY WITH THOSE EYES—
—AND THOSE LEGS—
— JUST 'CUZ HE'S NICE ENOUGH TO HELP FOLK WHO GOT NOBODY ELSE, THEN THE HELL WITH HER, RIGHT?
WELL, UH, THANK YOU, UH, SHIRLEY, BUT IT'S NOT REALLY THAT SIMPLE.
MAYBE, MAYBE NOT.

:sigh: BETTER GO.
"CRIME WAITS FOR NO ONE", YOU KNOW.
HAW HAW.
YER A CARD, CAP'N.
CHNK
FRAP
AND THANKS FOR THE TALK. I DO FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW.
..... UHHHH, Y-YEAH SURE. UH, UH, YO, CAP'N....
Mac's DINER
A GUY WHO DOES DISHES ... AND SHE DUMPS 'IM.
:tsk:
END

LETTERS TO LIMBO

Thrown into the breach as it were, this is Tony Isabella on the target side of your postal projectiles to SATAN'S SIX and the rest of the Kirbyverse comics. We've only got one page this time out, so let's get busy.

Dear Jim and all the Topps crew,

Having read the first issues of the new Kirbyverse comics, I had to take a deep breath before starting this letter.

Are you people some kind of nuts? In five different comics, I see one non-white person, a bad imitation of a black man who is also a junkie! This is the only minority person in these books. What kind of world do you live in? Why did this guy need to be a junkie, and, if you needed a junkie, why did he have to be black? This is the worst case of stereotyping I have seen in ages in any comic. I hope something is done about this. It was embarrassing to me and should be to all of comicdom. You should know better than this.

OK. Punishment time is over. I have positive things to say about these books also.

SATAN'S SIX was the funniest of the four titles. I liked the humor and loved seeing Jack Kirby's art. The concept and the self-deprecating comedy were very good. I look forward to seeing what happens next.

The overall positive attitude of the titles was pleasing to me. No dark and gritty heroes here. Confused? Out of their time? Yes. But they all seem to have the spark of heroism of the traditional Kirby good guys with a lightheartedness I have sorely missed in comics the last few years.

It was great seeing the Steve Ditko art in CAPTAIN GLORY. I have always enjoyed his work and would love to see Topps reprint his Mr. A stories. Please think about it.

I was also gratified by the Don Heck art on NIGHTGLIDER and the Dick Ayers/John Severin art on BOMBAST. I felt as if I had traveled back in time twenty years or more and was a kid reading comics again. That's not a knock either. The days of gritty are passing. I hope that, with these books, Topps can help lead the way out of that cul-de-sac in comics history. Grimmer material has a place, but it doesn't need to fill every spot on the comics shelves.

Thanks for the fun. Give my very best to Jack "King" Kirby. I met him last year at the San Diego Comics Convention and he is a delightful man. I'll always be able to say I met a legend.

Carl Pietrantonio
517 Idylwood Lane
Laredo, TX 78041

There's no excuse for the situation you rightfully take us to task for, Carl, though, in the interest of accuracy, I have to point out that Kuga of SATAN'S SIX is black. Okay, he may not be the best role model in comics, but, like the rest of our lovable losers, he does have his admirable qualities. I apologize to any readers we offend and promise we'll do better in the future.

(Jim Salicrup here--Tony's entitled to his opinion, as are you, Carl, but I wanted to get my two cents in regarding the Darren character in BOMBAST #1. As originally plotted by Roy Thomas, Darren wasn't a junkie, just a hapless victim. It was Gary Friedrich who decided to turn him into a junkie based solely on trying to create a more interesting character--one who is a drug addict who will eventually overcome his plight. Gary wasn't aware if there were any other black or minority characters in the other titles, he just thought it would make an interesting story. In an age where everyone is trying to be "Politically Correct," accidents do happen. They say the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, which brings us back to SATAN'S SIX...)

I may only be a legend in my own mind, but you'll be able to meet yours truly at this year's San Diego gathering. Look for me at the booths of COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE or TOPPS COMICS.

Dear Editor:

After reading SECRET CITY SAGA #0, BOMBAST#1, CAPTAIN GLORY #1, NIGHTGLIDER #1, and SATAN'S SIX#1, I can now offer you some feedback. For openers, I did like the material. Not quite up the the ingenuity of Jack's Fourth World introductions, but, with the variety of craftsmen working on the Kirbyverse, I found it to be even more entertaining. The art, especially the straight pencils and inks by Walt Simonson, Steve Ditko, and Don Heck was of top caliber.

SATAN'S SIX brought to mind the classic C.S. Lewis work, The Screwtape Letters. Even some of his devilish appellations, such as Screwtape, Wormwood, and Slumtrimpet, echo in names like Miss Ringworm, Odious Kamodius, and Sucnip. The book, hopefully will deliver the entertainment inherent in such a great concept!

BOMBAST was weak in script, but the artwork was excellent! John Severin is fondly remembered from his EC days. Dick Ayers's solo Giant-Man stories were arguably his best artwork at Marvel and he was, of course, the inker for Kirby.

NIGHTGLIDER has been my favorite so far. Very well written and drawn! If Don Heck maintains this level of quality, I would definitely buy anything he drew for Topps! The lettering on the book was good and the coloring most effective, especially on the only partially-colored page 17. Only one minor, minor glitch on the first page. Isn't Chicago in Illinois, not Michigan? Do I win a no-prize?

CAPTAIN GLORY with Steve Ditko pencils and inks was a gem. The Roy Thomas script exuded a charm harking back to the simpler times of the 1940's and 1950's. I enjoyed it.

Thanks for a fine beginning!

John C. Rajca
704 Levick St.
Philadelphia, PA 19111

We don't do no-prizes around here, John, but we will make a contribution in your name to the geography book we're buying for NIGHTGLIDER editor Jim Salicrup. Sheesh!

That brings us to the close of our first letters column, but we'd like to spotlight your comments and suggestions as often as possible. So keep those cards and letters coming to us at: Topps Comics, 254 36th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232. We can't promise to answer letters individually, but we will read each and every one. Heck, we fight over who gets to read them first!

Topps of the morning to you!